

The Red Cross in Mercer County, under the direction of Warren Zorek, has been at the forefront of the relief effort. The special teams and volunteers sent into the area have proven invaluable to the residents of Mercer County's hardest hit localities, providing food, clothing, and shelter to displaced and distressed families and individuals. The men and women of the Red Cross are currently continuing their efforts to get the disabled communities back on their feet and moving again.

Upon visiting the afflicted areas, Maj. Gen. Joseph Skaff, Adjutant General of the West Virginia National Guard, announced that he would send personnel and equipment to help in the restoration of Mercer County. A total of 16 members, 4 dump trucks, and 4 all-terrain vehicles were dispatched to the area to aid in the removal of debris. The Guard's assignments were coordinated with the local civilian authorities. They have tremendously eased the burden on the residents, who have expressed their sincere gratitude for the services that are being provided.

There were also a number of volunteer fire departments and rescue squads who evacuated residents, and were on hand to pump the muddy waters out of homes. Among them were the East River, Bluewell, Green Valley, Glenwood, Oakvale, Bluefield, and Princeton fire departments and rescue squads. Their combined numbers totaled more than 150 men and women. It is of utmost importance that the members of a community and its surrounding areas come together, as the people of Mercer County have, in order to overcome such catastrophes. A strong community effort can have excellent results despite the dire conditions which may exist.

Local, State, and Federal officials surveyed the ravaged communities of Mercer county. Having heard the stories of the fear and heartache which the flood victims suffered, and having seen the damage first hand, the State Office of Emergency Services made the request to Governor Gaston Caperton that he seek a disaster declaration for the area. On July 5, the Governor signed the request for Mercer County to be declared a disaster area, and then forwarded it to President Clinton. On the same day I sent a letter to the President urging my strongest possible support for the disaster relief request, and expressed agreement with the Governor in that the disaster is larger than can be effectively handled by the State. I am pleased to say that the Federal Emergency Management Agency approved Mercer County for Federal relief assistance on July 12.

The communities are now one step further on the road to recovery, and I would like to personally thank the men and women of these organizations for the hard work that they have put into this effort. Their contributions and good will shall be well remembered by those whose suffering and anguish have been lessened by such caring and humanitarian people.

TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 1995

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that this would not be necessary. Yet here we are again, observing yet another anniversary of this awful tragedy—the occupation of Cyprus by Turkish forces.

The whole world recognizes the injustice of the situation:

The United Nations has adopted a Security Council Resolution calling for a settlement that respects the sovereignty of Cyprus.

The European Union has taken steps to include Cyprus as a member state. Greece is cooperating in the process by lifting its veto against Turkey's customs union with the EU. Yet Turkey remains intransigent. More must be done.

I am pleased that President Clinton has demonstrated his commitment to a resolution of the problem by this appointment of a Special Presidential Emissary for Cyprus.

Recently, President Clerides of Cyprus proposed a plan that calls for the demilitarization of the island. With more than one third of Cyprus under foreign occupation by 30,000 troops, demilitarization offers an opportunity to build an atmosphere of trust that could bring the sides closer to a framework for a resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I support President Clerides' efforts to introduce a new approach that recognizes the need for bold diplomatic initiatives to solve this intractable problem. The world has seen many promising signs for the cause of peace. The fragile processes in the Middle East and Northern Ireland are two examples where progress has occurred despite great difficulties and decades old animosities. We have an opportunity now to commit ourselves to an initiative that offers the possibility of demilitarizing this land which has suffered so much.

But these hopeful signs do not quiet the suffering of the island's people. International diplomatic efforts are meaningless if they do not lead to a resolution. For twenty-one years, the people of Cyprus have lived under foreign occupation. Twenty-one years! The families who grieve for fathers and mothers and sons and daughters killed or missing since the occupation have waited too long for a just settlement.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that this is the last time we find ourselves on the floor of this House marking yet another anniversary of this occupation.

CYPRUS

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the 21st anniversary of Turkey's illegal occupation of the independent Island of Cyprus. This is a dilemma that must be addressed.

Today, there is no more hope for a settlement to the crisis than there was 20 years

ago. It is a shame that a country that was founded with such promise and vision has deteriorated into a land torn by faction.

The tiny Island of Cyprus gained its independence from Great Britain in 1960. The Cypriots are divided along ethnic lines with 76 percent of the citizens of Greek origin and 19 percent of Turkish origin. To take into account this ethnic division, the first provision of the Cyprus constitution required a Greek Cypriot President and a Turkish Cypriot Vice President. Upon independence, the United States praised the new country for its "effort to create a new state based on the cooperation of different ethnic communities."

However, peace on the Island of Cyprus lasted only until 1963 when President Makarios proposed constitutional revisions that strengthened the Greek majority. The strenuous relationship deteriorated until 1974 when Greek hardliners supported a coup of President Makarios. In response to these threatening acts, the Turkish Government sent troops into Cyprus and seized control of a significant portion of the island.

Today, the two ethnic groups live in separate areas of the island with the United Nations maintaining a buffer zone. Settlement efforts have stalled on differences of how to solve the matter. In fact, a recent calmness on the island has disturbed some officials in the United Nations. The Secretary General of the U.N. has stressed that it is not a reason for optimism, but rather a cause for serious concern. It signifies not a peace initiative, but a strengthening of forces. In response to these actions, on June 27, 1995, the House approved an amendment by my colleague, Congressman JOHN PORTER of Illinois, to the foreign operations appropriations bill—H.R. 1868—that would reduce the aid to Turkey by 50 percent until they withdraw their troops from Cyprus. I supported this measure.

Mr. Chairman, tumult such as this must come to an end. It is time that peace comes to the Island of Cyprus.

"TWENTY ONE YEARS OF DIVISION ON CYPRUS"

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 1995

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my strong support for a peaceful end to the presence of Turkish military forces in Cyprus.

Today, July 20, 1995, marks the 21st anniversary of Turkey's invasion and occupation of the Island of Cyprus. The time is clearly long overdue when the occupation and division of Cyprus should be ended. The time has come to provide answers to questions over persons who have been missing for over two decades since the invasion of Cyprus. The time has come to bring peace and unity to the people of Cyprus.

The United States of America has clearly stated its commitment to a Cyprus settlement that respects the single sovereignty and territorial integrity of this island. I want to commend President Clinton for the leadership his administration has offered in support of international efforts to resolve the issue of a divided Cyprus. This administration has expressed clearly and consistently its support for an end to the illegal division of Cyprus.